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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

QUESTION OF EAST TIMOR

Letter dated 14 August 1989 from the Permanent Representative of Indonesia to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the Special Committee

With reference to aide-mémoire 15/89 and Add.1 and 2, dated 2, 4 and 11 August 1989, of the Special Committee concerning requests from persons to appear before the Special Committee as petitioners to speak about the so-called question of East Timor, I wish to convey the position of my delegation as follows.

The process of decolonization in East Timor has been carried out in conformity with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and of General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) and 1541 (XV), thus terminating the colonial status of the former Territory. Consequently, the integration of East Timor into the Republic of Indonesia was formalized on 17 July 1976 as its twenty-seventh province with rights and obligations equal to those of the other provinces.

In view of the above, my delegation reiterates its view that consideration of the question by the Committee is inappropriate and would constitute interference in matters which are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of a sovereign Member State. Moreover, any granting of a hearing to any petitioner before the Committee would serve no useful purpose whatsoever.

My delegation, therefore, expresses its strong opposition to the participation of the petitioners in the deliberations of the Committee.

I would appreciate it if this letter could be circulated as an official document of the Special Committee.

(Signed) Nana S. SUTRESNA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative